

MINUTES OF THE YCBA TOURNAMENT COMMITTEES MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 AUGUST 2016 AT 10.30 A.M. AT 9 MIDDLETHORNE CLOSE, LEEDS.

PRESENT: N Woolven (Chair), S V Davies, P G Mason, L Millet, R Millet and J A Staniforth.

1) Apologies

The apologies of M Bratley and P Godfrey were received.

2) Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received for any item on the agenda. As this was a new item it was agreed the secretary would incorporate wording used by the EBU.

3) Dates of County Green Point Events in 2018

It was agreed that the green pointed days in 2018 would be the Yorkshire Congress pairs and teams events to be held on 2 and 3 June. It was intended to continue to host the Great Northern Swiss Pairs, Harrogate Spring Congress and Easter Festival subject to continuing reviews. The secretary to notify the EBU by 1 September 2016.

4) Congress Formats, Staffing and Entry Fees

a) Harrogate Spring Congress – Cairn Hotel

As this was the first year of YCBA hosting on behalf of the EBU Lesley outlined there was a need to ensure that the hotel environment was satisfactory as this had been detrimental to the 2016 event even though the bridge organisation had been without fault. The host would need to take a more proactive role and this had been seen to work well at the recent midweek Congress event. It was agreed a host should be sought for all Congress events.

The format was agreed as the same as the previous event but with an Improvers Pairs on the Friday afternoon. There would be no tea break on the Friday afternoon.

Stuart suggested that the EBU mid-week congress entry form be adapted for use.

A total of four TDs plus one for the Improvers event would be needed. The Copeland family along with Nick and George Bak would manage the transportation of the furniture/equipment. The hotel normally provided porters free of charge.

In view of the items of the number of tables/equipment it was agreed that the event be limited to 66 tables with new bidding boxes ordered as required. There would be a need to re-duplicate boards on the Saturday evening but this was preferred to purchasing new boards at this stage.

It was agreed to include the cost of a meal on the Saturday allowing an earlier start time for the evening session. Further discussion was needed regarding the choices available.

The hotel had agreed no room hire costs if 60 rooms were booked for two nights at a cost of £112 for dual occupancy with breakfast, £60 for a single room or £72 for a double room with single occupancy. This was considerably less than the £1k per day room hire costs for the Congress in June.

It was noted that whilst YCBA did not charge vat, the cost of any vat paid could not be reclaimed. was agreed that prize money would be restricted to 15% of the entry fee which excluded any meal costs and this would be for all competitions in view of the EBU's decision to exclude prize money for some events. Stuart suggested that the EBU entry form be adapted for use.

Signed:.....1.....Chairman

Glass trophies costing in the region of £25 each would be given to the winners of all Improvers events.

The entry fees per player were agreed as:

Session	Price: 2017	(Price: 2016)
Full Congress	£100*	£95
Pairs	£66*	£59
Team	£30	£37
Friday single session/improvers	£10	£12

*Meal included at £15.95 per head (tea/coffee inclusion to be checked).

The session times for Saturday would therefore be:

2.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.

7.00 p.m. – 10.15 p.m.

b) Easter Festival - Craiglunds Hotel, Ilkley

Lesley reported there had been discussion with the new hotel management as a result of issues arising in the 2016 event which had generated only around £300 profit. Hotel accommodation costs had increased to £45 per person for bed and breakfast for a double/twin room with two occupants, £15 per person for dinner and a £20 single supplement. Room hire costs were less than that of the Cairn although the hire of the main room + conservatory had increased by £50 to £600 for Friday (£350 without the conservatory, £400 for Saturday and £250 for Sunday if more than 25 take the optional lunch. The hotel would need to be notified of numbers. Three Tournament Directors would be required.

Entry fees would be the same as for the Spring Congress at Harrogate.

c) Yorkshire Congress – Cairn Hotel, Harrogate

The entries for 2016 had been less than in previous years and as a consequence only a very small profit had been made. It was felt that advertising the event had been too late and it was agreed that entry forms needed to be available at the Year End Congress and an advert placed in the February 2017 edition of English Bridge.

Discussion took place on the current format and it was agreed that this remain the same for one more year and a detailed evaluation carried out after the event.

Three TD's plus a trainee would be needed.

There would be an Improvers Pairs on Friday evening and an Improvers Teams on the Sunday with the same hands played. Transportation of the equipment would need to be finalised. Room hire costs had increased by £40 for the main room and would increase by a further £10 in 2018.

Entry fees per player were agreed at:

Session	Price: 2017	(Price: 2016)
Full Congress	£74	£70
Pairs	£30	£28
Team	£30	£28
Friday single session/improvers	£10	£10

d) 2016 Great Northern Swiss Pairs

The following arrangements were confirmed:

- PG would arrange for 5 TDs plus 1 for the Improvers event.
- NW would organise transportation of furniture and equipment
- GC would be host on Sunday. LM/RM would be standby pair on Saturday.
- LM would be available at meal times on both days, served at 5.15 pm on Saturday and 12.50 p.m. on Sunday with 1.50 p.m. for the Improvers.

Signed:.....2.....Chairman

- Parking charges had increased to £7 per day and £15 for overnight.
- Secretary to send entry forms to northern and midland county secretaries

5) One day competition issues

a) Format/Number of Boards

It was agreed that all two session events would be a minimum of 44 boards and a maximum of 50 boards.

Stuart would notify TD's following appointments made by Phil G.

It was suggested that a TD manual be produced over a period of time and it was agreed to discuss this at the next Board meeting.

b) Entry criteria – checking arrangements

A query had arisen relating to the Play without the Experts event where a player's grade had increased above the entry limit after entry. It was agreed that in such events the grading at the time of entry was applicable and that this needed to be checked on receipt of entries. Similarly there was a need to check YCBA membership to ensure payment of the appropriate fee for non YCBA members for YCBA competitions which included outsourced events.

c) Entry fees for 2016/17 and 2017/8

It was agreed there would be no increase for 2017/18 following the decision to increase by £1 to £21 in 2016/17.

Clubs hosting events would continue to receive £11 per head to cover costs of a meal and room hire The secretary agreed to notify Bradford, Leeds and Huddersfield of the arrangement.

d) Post event evaluations/costs

In view of declining numbers there was a need to review events and profit/loss. It was agreed that a break even over all one day events (other than those initiated as loss leaders) was all that was required as the promoting of playing bridge was the most important aspect.

e) Catering

This had been the area of greatest increased cost particularly if external contractors were required. It was suggested that slight modifications could be made to quantity and quality but that for two session events there was a need for a two course plated meal.

6) Costs of trophy engraving

An invoice for £30 had been received for engraving a teams' trophy which was felt to be excessive. It was agreed that up to £10 for two names and £15 for four names should be claimed.

7) Review of 2016/17 competition brochure

The publication had received a number of favourable comments and had been distributed to all affiliated clubs and made available at the EBU Northern Summer Congress. There were a small number of errors and grammatical issues that could be rectified with a longer proof reading timescale.

8) Date and time of next meeting

There was no requirement for a further meeting at the present time.

Signed:.....3.....Chairman